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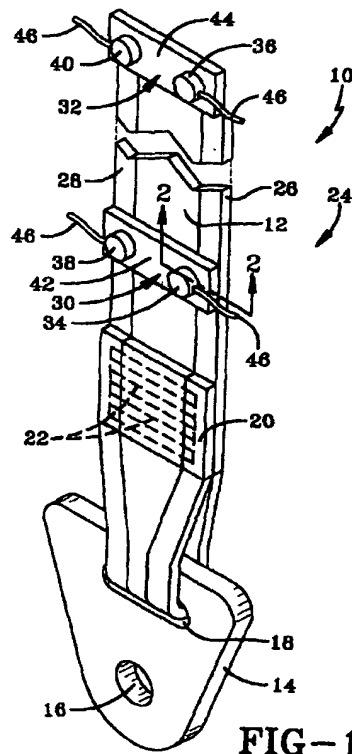
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(54) **Safety belt with load sensor**

(57) A load sensor (24) for a vehicle safety belt (10) comprises means for determining an electrical characteristic of the belt and control means for comparing the sensed characteristic with a reference level for the characteristic. In one embodiment, conductive fibers (26, 28) are interwoven into the belt and electrical contacts (30, 32) are provided at each end 20 thereof. Excessive loading of the belt results in a break in the fibres which, in turn, results in electrical discontinuity. The discontinuity is sensed by an electrical sensor and indicator means is provided to indicate to the driver of the vehicle that a belt has been excessively loaded.



EP 0 997 358 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 October 2001	Examiner D'sylva, C
<div> <div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> <div> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document </div> <div> T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </div> </div> </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04001)

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